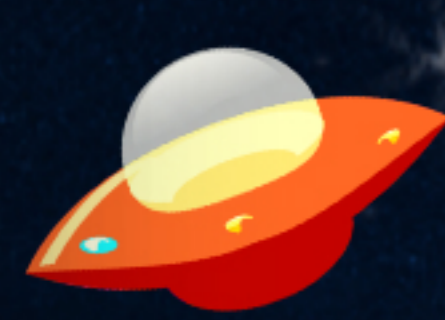




accurate predictions made by
SCIENCE FICTION

Four authors whose fictitious visions of the future became reality.



When fiction becomes fact

Science fiction explores **the impact of science** on society (or individuals) through storytelling.

Some of the science and technology **once imagined by sci-fi writers** now exists. These authors wrote about scientific advancements that can be found in the world today.

Mary Shelley (1797–1851)

Shelley helped pioneer the genre of science fiction with **Frankenstein; or The Modern Prometheus** in 1818.

Victor Frankenstein creates a monster by reanimating dead tissue, sparking the idea of **human organ transplants**. The first successful organ transplant wouldn't occur until 1954, over 100 years later.¹



Edward Bellamy (1850–1898)

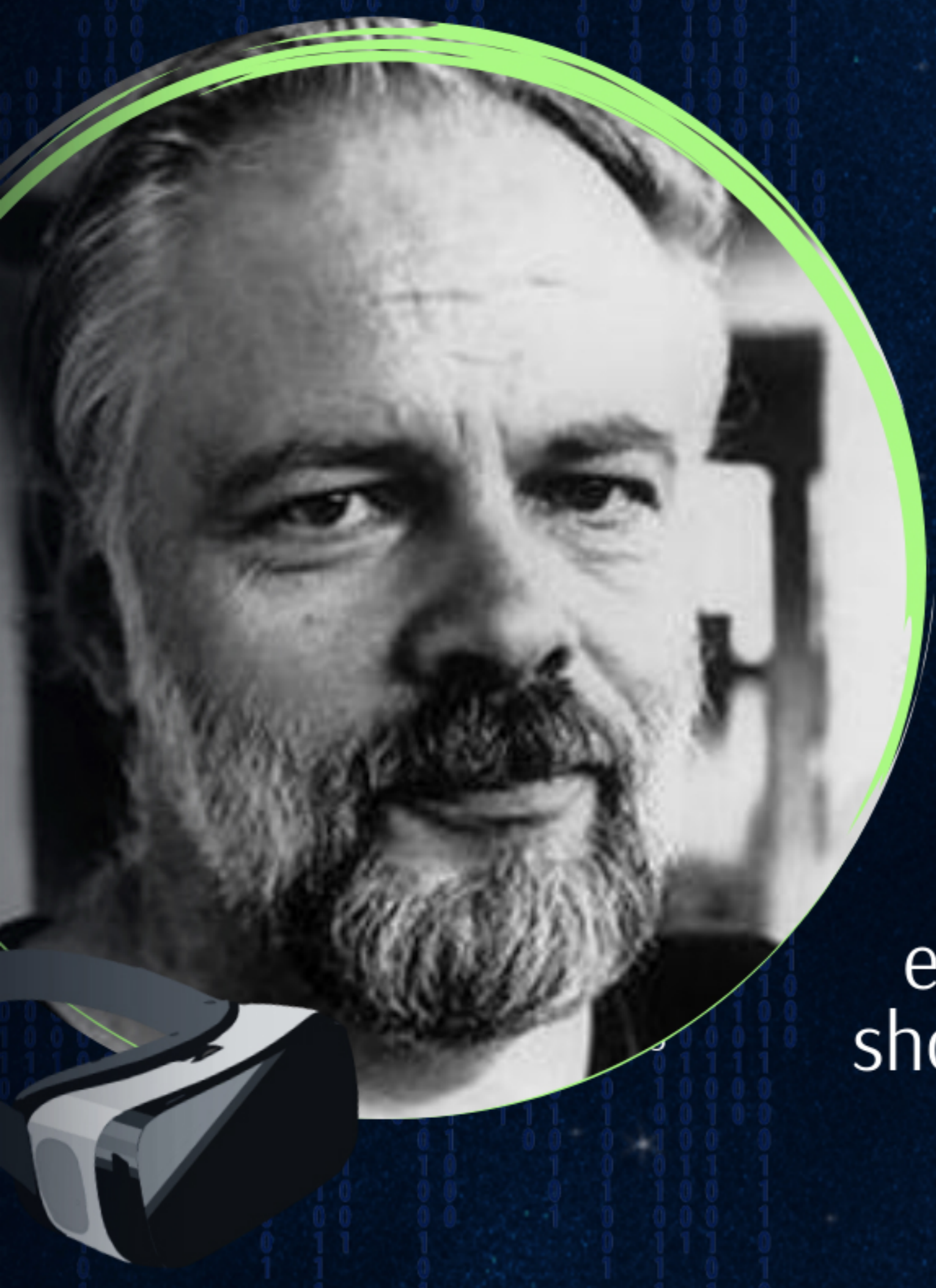
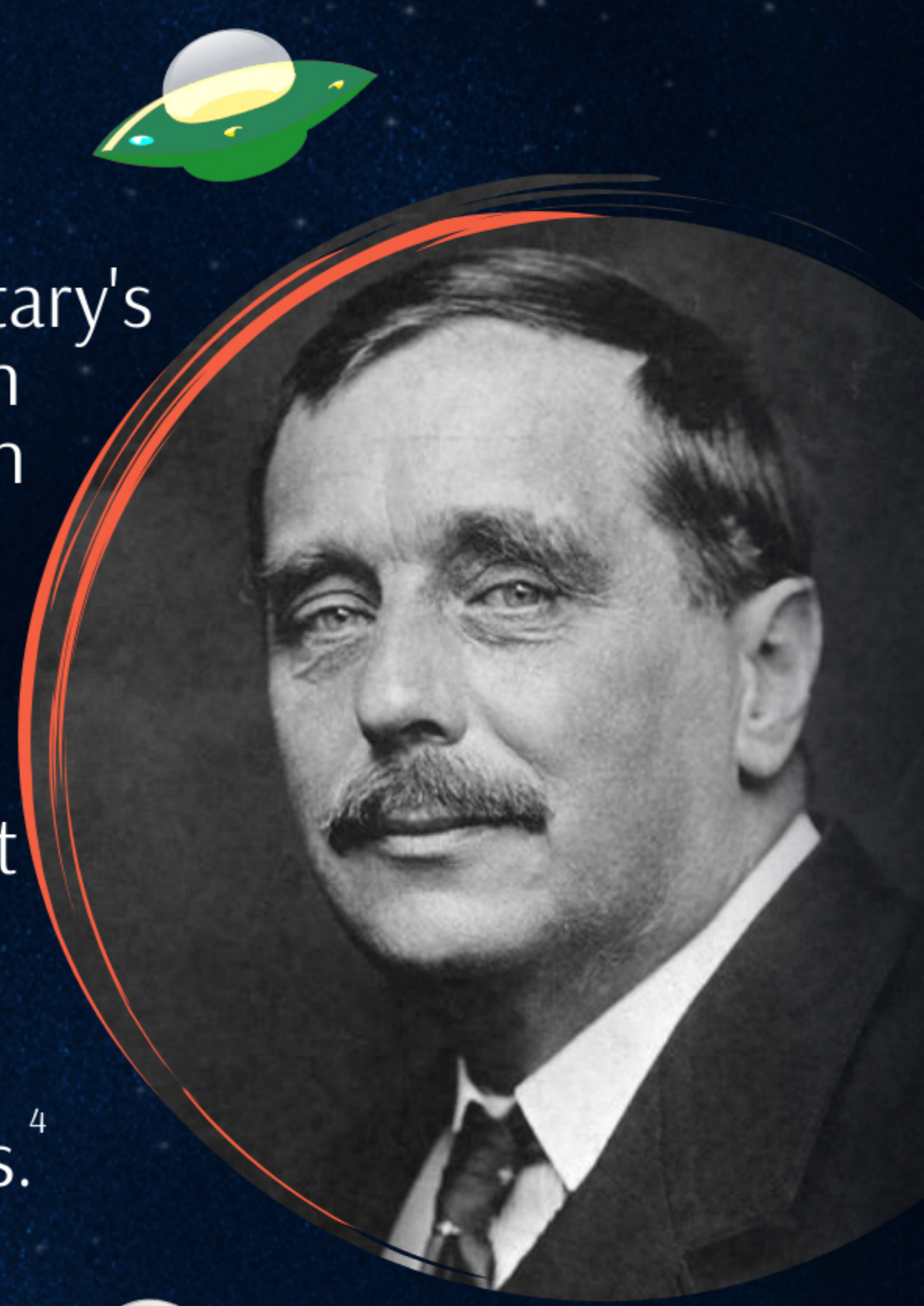
Bellamy introduced the concept of credit cards in his 1887 novel **Looking Backward**.

Citizens in his futuristic Utopian society no longer carry physical money, and instead use **credit cards** connected to a bank controlled by the government. The first credit card was created 63 years later by Diners Club founder Frank McNamara in 1950.²

H.G. Wells (1866–1946)

Wells' Martian **heat-ray** was deadly, but the military's is non-lethal—and primarily designed to create an unpleasant sensation. It uses microwave blasts in an attempt to disperse unruly crowds, and no one can withstand being a human Hot Pocket.³

The War of the Worlds is about Martians invading Earth, but the American scientist Robert H. Goddard actually did use it as a jumping off point for inventing a mode of transportation. The **liquid fueled rocket** was inspired by Wells' terrifying Martians and their interplanetary ships.⁴



Philip K. Dick (1928–1982)

Dick incorporated simulated virtual reality into many of his stories, including his 1968 novel **Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?**

The novel describes a new religion that uses "empathy boxes," a **virtual reality** device that allows users to partake in a collective virtual experience. In 2018, it was announced that Dick's short story "The Great C" would be adapted for VR.⁵

Sources



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- 4: history.com/this-day-in-history/first-liquid-fueled-rocket
- 5: variety.com/2018/digital/news/philip-k-dick-secret-location-1202883361

